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QUARTERLY JOURNAL

OF THE

STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

DECEMBER, 1843.

Thirteenth Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at Cork, August 17-23, 1843: Account of the Proceedings of the Statistical Section. By JAMES HEYWOOD, Esq., F.R.S.

OWING to various causes, the Meeting of the British Association at Cork was rather thinly attended, and there were few subjects of absorbing interest brought before the Statistical Section which could have attracted large auditories in the way that the discussions on the poor laws of Scotland had in a former year engaged the attention of the Statists at Glasgow.

The following Papers occupied the Statistical Section :—

1. The infecting and demoralizing State of the Lodging-houses for the travelling Poor in the Towns and Villages of England, by the late Mr. W. Leatham, of Wakefield. (*See p. 351.*)

2. Statistical Report on the physical and moral Condition of the Working Classes in the Parish of St. Michael's, Blackrock, near Cork, by Major Beamish. (*To appear in a future Number.*)

3. Statistics of the Responses or previous Examinations at Oxford, for 10 years, from 1832 to 1841 inclusive, by the Rev. Professor Powell, M.A. (*See p. 360*)

4. Progress of the Willingdon Agricultural School, by Mrs. Gilbert. (*See p. 351.*)

5. Past and present State of the Irish Silk Manufacture, referring more particularly to the manufacture of Irish Poblins, by Dr. W. Cooke Taylor. (*See p. 354.*)

6. The natural relation between the Anniversary Seasons of Birth and Death, and the tendency to Death in the natal month, by Mr. J. Catlow. (*See p. 351.*)

7. Statistics of an improved Rural District (the parish of Kilmurray), in the County of Cork, by Dr. D. Bullen. (*See p. 352.*)

8. Statistics of the commencement and extension of the System of Public Cars in the South and West of Ireland, by Mr. Bianconi, the great proprietor of the Irish Cars for travelling. (*See p. 356.*)

9. State of the Pauper Lunatics of Ireland, by Dr. W. Cooke Taylor. (*See p. 311.*)

10. Effect of Light as a part of Vital Statistics, by Mr. Richard Dowden. (*See p. 351.*)

11. Connexion between Statistics and Political Economy, by the Rev. Professor Lawson, of Trinity College, Dublin. (*See p. 322.*)

12. Abstract of a recent Report of M. Villemain, the Minister of

Public Instruction, on the state of the Schools for the Higher Classes in France, by Mr. James Heywood. (*See* p. 304.)

13. Industrial Education, by Mr. W. Biggs. (*See* p. 351.)

14. Statistics of the Cork Lunatic Asylum, by Dr. Osborne. (To appear in a future Number.)

15. Report of the Census of Ireland for 1841, with Observations to explain it, by Captain Larcom, of the Royal Engineers. (*See* p. 323.)

16. Report on the Infant Industrial Schools of Tuscany, by Mr. Mayer, of Florence. (To appear in a future Number.)

17. Description of the Blackwater River and its Navigation, by Mr. O'Flanagan. (*See* p. 351.)

18. State of Public Medical Relief in Ireland, by Dr. Bullen, Jun. (*See* p. 317.)

19. Sanatory Condition of certain Parts of the City of Cork, by Mr. Henry Biggs. (*See* p. 357.)

The officers of the Statistical Section at Cork were :—

President.—Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., M. P.

Vice Presidents.—Major Beamish, and Sir William Chatterton, Bart.

Secretaries.—Dr. D. Bullen, and Dr. W. Cooke Taylor, and there were besides 22 Members of the Committee.

A request was sent in from the governing body of the Statistical Section to the Committee of Recommendations, that the sum of 50*l.* might be granted to a sub-committee for sanatory inquiries in the cities of Cork and Limerick, but this grant was not passed in the Committee of Recommendations ; and the state of health of the inhabitants of Cork and Limerick still remains a subject of deep importance, and worthy to occupy the time and attention of statistical inquirers.

The most important report presented to the Statistical Section at Cork was that of the census of Ireland in 1841, which had been prepared with the most minute detail, and with the most enlightened views of the requirements of a grand census of the population, so that it may now serve as a model worthy of consideration at a future census, even in this country. It was accompanied by illustrative shaded maps of the population, education, and crime of Ireland, and was presented to the Statistical Section at Cork, through the liberality of the Lord Lieutenant, before it had gone through the usual formality of presentation to the Houses of Parliament.

Some interesting general observations were supplied by Professor Lawson in his paper on the Connexion of Statistics with Political Economy. An acquaintance with economical science, he considered, would show what had been already ascertained, what still remained in doubt and therefore required additional evidence, and what was the subject of controversy. The object of political economy was to trace effects to their causes, and in doing so, there was great danger of treating accidental accompaniments as causes. The results to be accounted for were the work of time, so that experiment was impossible ; innumerable circumstances had existed during the production of these results ; and it was difficult to determine whether the effect should be attributed to one or more of the concomitant circumstances, or to the combination of all of them.

The next meeting of the British Association for the advancement of Science will be held at York, in the Autumn of 1844, under the presidency of the Dean of Ely.